



Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants



A National Effort to Reduce Crime Through Federal Criminal Justice Reform

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EJ, Hurst, II, Attorney, Chief of Legislative Affairs March 6, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St., SW Washington DC 20554

Re: Petition for Rulemaking by Martha Wright, et al., CC Docket No. 96-128

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Federal chapter of C.U.R.E. is involved with federal inmate issues. Complaints from inmates regarding telephone usage has always been one of the biggest problems we encounter on a daily basis. Thankfully, the BOP solved the biggest telephone problem a number of years ago after litigation led to the installation of a debit calling system, a reasonably priced collect call system and reduced rates, all of which improved inmate communication with loved ones.

Although a number of states have copied the federal system, the majority of the states still adhere to telephone policies that severely limit communication by charging inmates' families exorbitant rates to speak with their loved ones or blocking prison calls because of company billing formalities. Time and again it has been proven that allowing inmates to stay in contact with their loved ones reduces recidivism. There is no legal or moral justification to restrict inmate telephone usage simply to supply a state's correctional system a huge commission on all calls made by inmates. The financial burden is not borne by the inmate, but instead is carried by those who can least afford it – the families and friends upon whom the inmate depends.

We strongly urge the FCC to cap the rates that state inmates are charged for telephone calls and allow them to have access to the same system that benefits federal inmates, namely a debit calling system. In addition, a reasonably priced collect calling system should also be put into place and exorbitant telephone company commissions should be disallowed.

Very truly yours, Kenneth Linn, J.D., LL.M. Chairman, FedCure

Serving Federal Prisoners and Their Families Working to Reinstate Parole and to Increase Good Time Allowances

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February 9, 2007 Friday 5:00 AM GMT

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

HEADLINE: Prison crews find work in the wilderness

BYLINE: By MICHAEL VIRTANEN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: SARANAC LAKE N.Y.

BODY:

Like a latter-day Paul Bunyan, the 6-foot-4 woodsman hoisted the chainsaw in his big left hand, pulled the cord with his right, fired it up and methodically dismembered the birch.

In a few minutes, it was a pile of thin branches for chipping and logs that Crew 7 stacked for firewood.

"I got issues, I take 'em out with the saw," Will Tatum joked.

In the north-central Adirondacks, Camp Gabriels inmate crews clear trees and trails, cut blocks for ice castles, shovel snow on frigid mornings and do other labor for municipalities and not-for-profits. Most of the nearly 200 inmates come from downstate, and often it's their first brush with the wilderness.

"It gives you a peace of mind out here," said the 42-year-old Tatum, nearing the end of a four-year-three-month sentence for a drug conviction in New York City. "It's quiet. It gives you a chance to think. It gives you a chance to meditate."

As Crew 7 took a short break from chopping a ski trail up Mt. Pisgah at Saranac Lake, Lt. Paul Byno said his phone rings with work requests and sometimes compliments about crew politeness and work ethic.

"I give all credit to Officer Thwaits," Tatum said, with Oscar-speech modesty, as Officer Mel Thwaits grinned a little.

"He knows his trees," said Willie Cummings, who had trimmed a poplar with another short chainsaw. Crew members Terrance Tinsley, Chad Nichols and Steven Spencer started to laugh.

Tatum had pulled off his gloves and the hard hat with the clear plastic face mask. He was sweating. It was in the 40s in mid-December but some days it's "very cold," he said more seriously, and staying busy is the only way to stay warm.

When it gets near 10 below zero, they'll stay in, Byno said. "It's basically what a human can take without being uncomfortable," he said.

Inmates earn from 85 cents to \$2.10 a day, depending on education, skills and pay bumps, and work five days a week. Each day sees about 15 crews working. One removes asbestos, a marketable

skill on the outside. Inmates also run a pheasant farm, greenhouse and work at the prison camp in Gabriels, 120 miles north of Albany.

According to Byno, the camp's good reputation comes from decades of work in the community, though the inmate population turns over about every 18 months.

This summer, inmates cut enough trees for an additional Lake Placid Youth Association base-ball field. They even mowed the grass, raked and lined the other ball fields, said Robert Kane, businessman, father and member of the association's baseball committee.

"We'd get down there at five o'clock and the fields would be ready to go," he said.

Last winter, crews cleared about a dozen miles along both sides of Route 3, cleaning up an eyesore and quieting some of the controversy after the state Transportation Department dropped too many trees in the first place. The wood was taken to a state-run lumber mill.

Most of the 196 inmates have low-level drug or burglary convictions, corrections officials said. Officers like Thwaits don't carry guns, just radios. The few occasional problems occur when somebody doesn't want to work, Byno said. That usually means a radio call and a ride back to the camp, which has no perimeter fence.

The other benefit to the remote Adirondacks, maybe the bigger one, is a brush with job skills, Tatum said.

"It gives you a little more experience to go back to the street with," Tatum said. "A lot of guys come here, it's the first job they ever had."

"A lot of trades, other prisons don't teach you," Cummings said.

At the Lake Placid Center for the Arts, another crew was painting the interior and doing repairs. Mitchell Loor, 23, who began drawing out of X-Men comic books in his youth, was doing freehand illustrations of ballerinas in a new changing room inmates built for dance students. He had earned commercial art certificates at Greene Correctional Facility and works in the Camp Gabriels sign shop. Arrested for weapon possession, and then jumping bail and going to Greece, he said he recently married his longtime girlfriend. He plans to return to Queens and help support her while she finishes college, then go back to school himself.

Byno tries to put inmates on crews where they want to be and fit in, he said. "Unfortunately, there's a pretty good percentage of them who don't like being here because they have to work harder," he said.

The federal Bureau of Justice Statistics reported 1.5 million adults in federal and state prisons, with another 800,000 in local jails and other facilities at the end of 2005. Its detailed 2000 census lists 95 facilities operating boot camp programs with 12,751 participants, spokesman Stu Smith said.

The 189 federal prisons and contract facilities include 67 minimum-security camps that provide labor. Most inmates systemwide 193,944 as of Feb. 1 earn between 12 cents and 40 cents an hour, Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman Traci Billingsley said.

New York has three other work camps for low-risk inmates Georgetown in Madison County, Pharsalia in Chenango County and Mt. McGregor, attached to the medium-security prison in Saratoga County. In early February, the four camps housed 709 or about 1 percent of New York's 63,764 prisoners at 69 state prisons. Pharsalia has been threatened by budget cuts.

The department also runs four "shock incarceration" or boot camps for eligible young inmates who choose the six-month, military-style discipline, work and drills, Department of Correctional Services spokeswoman Linda Foglia said. Counting crews from medium-security prisons, the department estimates one million inmate hours of free labor annually for churches, government agencies and not-for-profits.

Bob Gangi, executive director of the Correctional Association of New York, a watchdog group, said they get few prisoner complaints from work camps, and it's positive to have jobs, be involved in the community, learn job skills and work habits and make some money. The more money they can take home, the better, he said.

But he called the wages "embarrassingly low. ... The inmates are inadequately paid all over the prison system."

New York State Prisons: http://www.docs.state.ny.us

Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

Federal Bureau of Prisons: http://www.bop.gov



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April 13, 2007 Friday 02 EDITION

SECTION: B; Pg. 01

HEADLINE: Jockisch to get out of prison

BYLINE: DAN MURTAUGH, Staff Reporter

BODY:

MOBILE COUNTY

Jockisch to get out of prison

Former county commissioner served 21/2 years for mail fraud, tax violations

By DAN MURTAUGH

Staff Reporter

Freeman Jockisch, the former Mobile County commissioner who was convicted for lying on state ethics forms and tax returns, is scheduled to be released from federal prison today after about 21/2 years behind bars.

Jockisch, now 62, has been in prison since November 2004. He served two years and two months in the Federal Correctional Institution in Talladega before moving in January to the Community Corrections Management Office in Montgomery.

Jockisch will have to complete three years of probation upon release.

In May 2004, federal jurors convicted Jockisch of 15 counts of mail fraud. Prosecutors said Jockisch lied about his relationship with a fire sprinkler company on his ethics form. The company was hired as a subcontractor for public school projects, and the County Commission gave money to the school board.

Jockisch was also found guilty on four counts of filing false tax returns.

He served nearly 12 years as a county commissioner and was running for his fourth term when the jury convicted him.

Mobile County Commissioner Mike Dean, who served with Jockisch from 2000 until Jockisch was sentenced in 2004, said his former colleague was "a good person" and a "master" of meeting with people in his district and solving their problems.

"I consider him a good commissioner in his district," Dean said. "I think the people in district still would have voted for him if he hadn't been convicted."

City of Mobile spokeswoman Barbara Drummond, who was the county spokeswoman during most of Jockisch's tenure, said that after one of the hurricanes in the mid-1990s, Jockisch went out

to his district and helped people clean up their properties because county employees weren't allowed to work on private property.

"He was really a 'people' kind of commissioner," she said. "He spent a lot of time in his district getting to know folks and what issues his district was encountering."

Felicia Ponce, a Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman in Washington, said Jockisch's schedule while incarcerated is not public record.

However, she said, most federal inmates work about 71/2 hours a day at jobs, such as food service, plumbing or groundskeeping.

Inmates earn between 12 and 40 cents an hour, she said. The money can be used to purchase things such as stamps, toiletries and snacks, she said.

CUTLINES

Freeman Jockisch



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March 25, 2007 Sunday Main Edition

SECTION: A SECTIONPg. A1

HEADLINE: Inmates to go out of state- Idaho plans to send 700 prisoners to other parts of the country by 2010.

BYLINE: By PHIL DAVIDSON,

BODY:

BOISE - In the next few months, 100 of Idaho's prison inmates will pack their meager belongings and say goodbye to life behind bars in the Gem State.

But civilian life won't be their destination. They'll be headed to a prison in another part of the country.

It's unclear where they'll go - the state is trying to find a place for the medium security inmates by June - but it will mean that 530 of Idaho's prisoners are locked up elsewhere (about 430 are detained in private prisons in Texas).

And the state plans to ship an additional 600 inmates out of state by 2010, provided private institutions come up with bids the Idaho Department of Corrections can work with.

Private prisons interested in housing the 100 medium-security inmates have until April 12 to submit bids, said Jason Urquhart, a state purchasing officer; none have done so yet.

Shipping inmates across state lines is the best way to combat an exploding prison population, said Brent Reinke, the corrections department's director.

A little more than 7,000 inmates - just about capacity - reside in Idaho's prison system, which includes maximum-, medium- and minimum-security facilities.

The corrections department's \$180 million budget will provide for 700 new beds in the next few years, but those additions will do little to stave off the rapid inmate growth that's one of the highest per capita in the country. The state locked up 450 people in February alone.

IDOC's long-term plan is to have all Idaho offenders housed together and returned to Idaho, but it's anyone's guess how long that will take.

Asked whether the scenario is possible in the near future, Reinke said, ""That depends on your definition of the foreseeable future.""

If the current bidding process is any indication, that won't be for at least another four years. IDOC has set aside about \$2.3 million to house 100 inmates out of state this year, spokesman Jeff Ray said.

Exporting inmates isn't cheap.

It costs \$43 a day to house them in Idaho. But that figure could rise to \$65 a day for those shipped elsewhere because of the fierce competition for prison beds.

The state pays \$8 million annually to incarcerate inmates in Texas - 124 at the Dickens County Correctional Center in Spur and 304 at the Bill Clayton Correctional Center in Littlefield.

That figure represents the \$51 per-day rate Idaho pays for each inmate to the Florida-based GEO Group, an international corporation that operates correctional centers in 16 states. GEO is a major player in the private prison industry, evident by its public offering this week of 4.8 million stock shares at \$43.99 apiece.

But an anti-private prison activist says states should avoid transporting inmates to facilities run by groups such as GEO at all costs.

Ken Kopczynski, executive director of the Private Corrections Institute, maintains a Web site that lists unfavorable governmental reports on several of the national companies running private prison facilities throughout the country.

There are a number of reasons why states should avoid contracting with private companies including, he said:

- These companies attract unqualified guards because they don't pay well,
- They're beholden to shareholder demands
- And they're held to different oversight standards by the various states contracting with them.

""Supervising inmates is the responsibility of the states,"" said Kopczynski, who added that places, such as Idaho, with stuffed prisons should re-evaluate sentencing guidelines to alleviate the overcrowding.

Kopczynski said the low salaries GEO pays to guards can lead to shoddy stewardship. He pointed to a recent report about a GEO-run facility in Lawrenceville, Va. The report found that twice as many inmates were caught with drugs last year at the Lawrenceville facility than at all other Virginia prisons combined.

GEO pays its guards \$20,000 annually, a company spokesman told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. The U.S. Department of Labor reported state prison guards made an average of \$33,750 in 2004.

Idaho has had problems with the GEO group.

Last year, two Idaho inmates escaped from the GEO-operated Newton County Correctional Center in Texas.

Also, about 100 of 419 Idaho inmates housed there staged a protest last year in response to what they argued were squalid living conditions. A few of those inmates were injured during the protest, which resulted in disciplinary actions against a pair of guards.

NCCC officials canceled that contract with Idaho in July, telling then-IDOC Director Tom Beauclair that making room for Texas inmates was the reason.

IDOC officials had made several trips to Texas to scrutinize the operation before that decision was made, however.

One of those inmates who served a stint there has a pending case in federal court on grounds that his civil rights were violated.

Leslie Bowcutt, who's serving a 30 years to life sentence for lewd conduct with a minor, wrote in his complaint that prison life in Texas was substandard to that in Idaho.

""My contention is not that Idaho has chosen to out-source me to an out-of-state private prison to relieve crowding, my complaint is that they have shirked their responsibility by not providing a similar degree of custody, protection, care and discipline that inmates receive in Idaho,"" his complaint reads.

Bowcutt, who didn't volunteer to go to Texas, states that he couldn't afford the phone call rates there. He maintains that communication with friends and family is vital to his rehabilitation and mental health.

Studies have shown families are important to prisoners and to the achievement of major social goals, including the prevention of recidivism and delinquency.

Reinke said IDOC officials use a number of factors to determine who's going across state lines, including psychosocial evaluations and how long an inmate's sentence is.

There was a failure to adequately supervise inmates at the NCCC, he said, but representatives from his department responded sufficiently through close monitoring, which he said will continue wherever the next round of inmates is sent.

In the meantime, he's hopeful lawmakers have become aware of the overcrowding problem.

They have approved several laws this year targeting alternative remedies.

A concerted effort has been made to treat nonviolent drug offenders instead of incarcerating them. Bonneville County officials estimate they can divert sending 100 local offenders to prison each year through a new program that allows for judges' discretion to move inmates through a system that includes jail, work release, halfway houses, transitional housing, outpatient treatment and, finally, release.

Lawmakers also approved legislation that pulls \$2 million annually from the state's liquor account for distribution to drug and mental health courts.

House Judiciary Chairman Jim Clark, R-Hayden Lake, estimates that 275 offenders can be diverted to drug courts through the legislation.

Clark said these programs should keep Idaho from sending so many inmates out of state in the next three years.

""The emphasis should be on drug courts anywhere,"" he said.

Reporter Phil Davidson can be reached at 336-0145.

Headed out

Already, more than 400 inmates are locked up in privately-run prisons in Texas. That could swell to 1,000 by 2010.

Here is the Idaho Department of Corrections' approximate schedule for the out-of-state transfer of prison inmates.

June 2007: 100 prisoners

December 2007: 100

April 2009: 100 May 2009: 100

September 2009: 100 December 2009: 100

March 2010: 100

Source: Idaho Department of Administration's purchasing division



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The Washington Post

April 24, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

SECTION: METRO; Pg. B01

HEADLINE: Locked Down and Far From Home;

One-Third of D.C. Prisoners Incarcerated More Than 500 Miles Away

BYLINE: Arthur Santana, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

The federal Bureau of Prisons has not kept its promise to house D.C. inmates in prisons within 500 miles of the city, having placed more than 30 percent in facilities as far away as Texas and California, recent government statistics show.

Bureau officials said that Congressional budget delays, which have slowed construction of prisons, and the agency's decision not to renew contracts with three institutions in Virginia have made it more difficult to incarcerate D.C. inmates in facilities closer to home. The percentage of city inmates in far-flung prisons has increased steadily during the past four years.

City officials and prisoner advocates are worried about the trend, citing studies that suggest that prisoners who keep in touch with relatives have a smoother transition back into their communities when they are released.

"I think it's pretty much been shown that when prisoners have contact with their families, and that is coupled with good rehabilitative programs . . . then it pays dividends down the road because you have less recidivism," Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) said yesterday. He said the figures "were cause for concern."

The federal government agreed to take over expenses for D.C. prisoners in 1997 as part of a bailout of the financially strapped District. Part of the agreement meant that the Lorton Correctional Complex in Fairfax County would close and thousands of D.C. inmates would be absorbed into the federal system. The bureau's policy is to house inmates no more than 500 miles from the city where they intend to live after they are released.

Though the numbers fluctuate, a snapshot of figures for the past four years shows a steady increase in the number of inmates housed outside the 500-mile boundary. In 2000, 12 percent of D.C. inmates were incarcerated in federal prisons farther than 500 miles from Washington. In 2001, the number climbed to 17 percent. By March 2002, four months after Lorton closed, it was 19 percent, according to the bureau.

The figures are important, say advocates for prisoners' rights, because inmates who lose touch with relatives are more likely to be on shaky footing when they reenter society and to return to crime. Those convicts also are more susceptible to prison abuse and are less likely to have access to D.C. law books or attorneys, the advocates say.

D.C. Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey has attributed the recent spike in homicides, in part, to the large numbers of ex-convicts returning to city streets after completing prison sentences.

Gayle Hebron used to drive every week to visit her son, Elauin Hebron, 28, when he was at Lorton. Now he is at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., more than 900 miles away. For more than a year, Hebron said, she has not seen her son. "The bus trip is something like two days, and I just can't do that," she said. "It's horrible."

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said she was concerned about the large numbers of D.C. inmates so far from Washington and the possible lack of access to services.

"It is time for us to look into this issue and to put some fire under the [Bureau of Prisons]," Norton said. "I want to know whether there are any alternatives . . . and that's why I'm going to ask for a hearing."

The new director of the federal Bureau of Prisons, Harley G. Lappin, who started this month, was out of town and unavailable for comment, a spokesman said.

"The bureau remains committed to the goal of housing the great majority of D.C. inmates within 500 miles of the District," bureau spokesman Dan Dunne said this week.

Carol Fennelly, director of Hope House, a District-based group that connects incarcerated fathers with their children in Washington, said her organization hosts summer camps at the federal prisons in Winton, N.C., and Cumberland, Md., where children enter the prison with their fathers for several hours a day for about a week.

The group also takes a vanload of family members to either the federal prison in Jonesville, Va., or Edgefield, S.C. But, Fennelly said, such valuable programs are impossible for distant prisoners.

"Camp isn't even possible in a prison that far away," Fennelly said, adding that she has been trying to organize a trip to the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, where there are 364 D.C. inmates, but that it's too far.

Last year, bureau officials said that one of the reasons inmates could not be placed in closer prisons was that they had only two high-security prisons nearby -- in Pennsylvania, at Allenwood and Lewisberg, each about 200 miles away. They said the bureau's policy of not housing large numbers of inmates from a single geographic location in a single penitentiary prohibits concentrating high-security D.C. felons in the Pennsylvania institutions.

The bureau also considers other factors in deciding where to commit inmates, such as length of sentence, the prisoner's crime, history of violence or escapes, and medical or psychological needs.

Dunne said that because the 2003 federal budget didn't take effect until February, the bureau delayed the opening of two maximum-security prisons in Kentucky. Both are expected to open by early next year, but it's not known how many D.C. inmates could be transferred there, Dunne said.

Not everyone is unhappy with their out-of-bounds placements.

Thelma Parks of Northeast Washington said that her son, Joseph Smith, 50, is housed in the federal penitentiary in Coleman, Fla., which is much farther than she'd like him to be. But, she said, he likes it there better than when he was at Lorton.

"He says they treat him better there," Parks said. "I asked him if he wanted to be moved, and he said, 'No.' I have to honor his wishes."



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February 2, 2007 Friday Metro Edition

SECTION: B; Pg. 1

HEADLINE: FAMILY CONTACT KEY TO INMATES;

Proposal orders agencies to help strengthen bonds;

BYLINE: Richard Roesler Staff writer

DATELINE: OLYMPIA

BODY:

WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE

For much of Dalana Smith's young life, spending just a few hours with her mom meant two nights sleeping on church floors, 12 hours riding in a van and a trip through security checkpoints.

Her mother was in prison.

A few times a year, under the "Girl Scouts Beyond Bars" program, Smith would make the long trip from Tacoma to see her mom at Medical Lake's Pine Lodge Corrections Center for Women. There, for a few hours, they would talk, bowl with plastic bowling pins, jump rope and blow bubbles outside, and make scrapbooks to remember each other by.

"It meant a lot," said Smith, 12, whose mother was released last year and now lives in Spokane. "Without a mom, what is there?"

Nationwide, prison officials say, there are more than a million kids whose parents are behind bars. Average age: 8.

With ever-increasing prison costs, state lawmakers are trying to reduce recidivism among inmates. One way to do that, they say, is to encourage support from family and friends. Late last year, after years of pleading by families, the state Department of Corrections sharply reduced long-distance phone costs.

The department has launched father/child visits, gift exchanges and read-to-your-child recording programs at prisons.

Now, lawmakers want to boost and expand efforts to strengthen bonds between inmates and their families. To help pay for it, they propose spending \$1.2 million over the next two years.

House Bill 1422, prime-sponsored by Rep. Mary Helen Roberts, D-Edmonds, would order state agencies to develop policies and programs to encourage family contact. The larger goals are promoting normal child development, reducing repeat crimes and preventing the children from also landing in prison.

The only local co-sponsor is Rep. Timm Ormsby, D-Spokane.

Life is hard for inmates' children, advocates told a House committee Tuesday. Losing a parent to prison often leaves them poorer. They may feel ashamed and alienated from friends. They tend to bounce from one caregiver to the next. And they're at much higher risk, studies suggest, of ending up behind bars themselves.

"Children suffer a silent sentence," said Kathy Russell, head of the social work program at Pacific Lutheran University.

"This is an issue we absolutely have to tackle or we're going to continue to build prisons and underfund schools," said Sharon Darcy, co-founder of Oregon's Children's Justice Alliance, which tries to encourage those family ties.

Nationwide, legislative researchers say, more than half of imprisoned parents say they have never had an in-person visit from their children. More than 60 percent are incarcerated more than 100 miles from home.

The Girl Scouts' "Beyond Bars" program is partly funded by the state Department of Corrections. Since 1999, 252 girls with a mother in prison have joined the program, which is a blend of traditional Scouting and trips to visit their mothers at three correctional facilities around the state. Prison officials approve mothers for the program.

More than 70 girls are in the program this year, according to Gloria Morehouse, a leader with the group's Pacific Peaks Council.

"They get to see other kids who are in the same circumstances, so there's nothing to hide," said Morehouse. "It's important for them to have that feeling of belonging."

NOTES: Richard Roesler can be reached at (360) 664-2598 or by e-mail at <u>richr@spokesman.com</u>.



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This portion of your bill is provided as a service to Global Tel*Link.

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| etailed atement of harges | <u>Miscellaneous Charges and Credits</u> Service Provider - GLOBAL TEL*LINK Date | Amount |
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| | <u>Itemized Calls</u> Service Provider - GLOBAL TEL*LINK Collect Calls | Amount |
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| | Total Itemized Calls | 28.23 |
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^{*} Rate and Tax Codes - Page 9
This portion of your bill is provided as a service to Global Tel*Link

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| | 7. 12/18 JACKSON MS 601 664-7288 GDS 20 | 19.25 |
| | 8. 12/18 JACKSON MS 601 664-7288 GDS 1 | 4.24 |
| | 9. 12/18 JACKSON MS 601 664-7288 GDS 16 | 16.09 |
| | 10. 12/22 JACKSON MS 601 664-7288 GDS 20 | 19.25 |
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| | Total Collect Calls | 78.08 |
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12. LA - State/Local Tax

^{*} Rate and Tax Codes - Page 10
This portion of your bill is provided as a service to Global Tel*Link.

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| Miscellaneous Charges and Credits | <u>Amount</u> |
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| 1. 02/05 Federal Universal Service Fund Fee | |
| 3. 02/05 Carrier Assessed - Administrative Fee | |
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| 4. 02/04 JACKSON MS 601 664-7288 GES 20 | 19.25 19.25 |
| Total Collect Calls | 19.25 |
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| Total Itemized Calls | 19.25 |
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^{*} Rate and Tax Codes - Page 9
This portion of your bill is provided as a service to Global Tel*Link.





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Page 9 of S



Account Number Www.med.com

For quantions, call 1 800 244-1111 NCI Charges

Summary of Charges

▼ Current Charges Mci Long Distance Total Long Distance

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Typs of Call Codos: F - Day Station - Operator Assisted G - Evening Station - Operator Assisted

MCI Long Distance

This portion of your bill is provided as a service to MCI.
There is no connection between Owest and MCI.

MCI 800-231-0193 74 04

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For questions, call 1 800 244-1111

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Page 9 of



Account Number

MCI Charges

Summary of Charges

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Page 9 of



For questions, calt 1 800 244-1111

MCI Charges

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Summary of Charges

▼ Current Charges

MCI Long Distance Total Long Distance



Total MCI Amount

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Type of Call Codes: F - Day Station - Operator Assisted G - Evening Station - Operator Assisted

MCI Long Distance

This portion of your bill is provided as a service to MCI.

There is no connection between Owest and MCI.

42.0 \$58.23

Exhibit 9

Copyright 2007 Little Rock Newspapers, Inc. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock)

March 18, 2007 Sunday

SECTION: ARKANSAS

HEADLINE: Rates dropping by June, prison phone callers told

BYLINE: BY CHARLIE FRAGO ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BODY:

A technology upgrade has delayed lower phone charges for families of Arkansas inmates, but prison officials said cheaper rates will be available across the system by June.

The first prisons to get the new system - expected to provide better listening quality - will be the Diagnostic and Pine Bluff units by the end of this month. The Grimes and McPherson units in Newport will be the last to receive the new phones, said Dina Tyler, spokesman of the Department of Correction.

When Global Tel-Link of Mobile, Ala., won the state contract in January, prison officials said the new rates could be in place by Feb. 17.

"That might have been a misunderstanding on our part," said Tyler, adding that the lower rates will come into effect gradually as each prison activates its new phone system.

At \$4.80 per 15-minute collect call, the new rates will be 27 percent cheaper than current charges. Originally, the Board of Corrections approved the contract without changing the \$6.60 per 15-minute collect rates, among the highest in the country. Protests by prison advocates and the threat of legislative action prompted the Correction Department to lower the rates and accept a smaller commission from the calls.

Now, the state will receive about 45 percent of about \$4 million in revenue. Previously, its share was 51 percent.

Some prison advocates, while welcoming lower rates, said more remains to be done. Equipping the system with debit capability that would allow inmates to dial certain prearranged numbers with a code would eliminate the need for the \$3 connection fee charged to each call, they say.

"We're just looking for what's right and what's fair," said Jean Thrash, a member of the state chapter of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, a national prisoner rights organization active across the country in campaigns to lower prison phone charges.

In the past, prison officials have said that debit systems would be prone to use as contraband, a position disputed by advocates who say the systems can be set up to allow only certain codes to dial a preapproved set of numbers.

Deborah Smith spends about \$100 a week talking to her husband, Billy, an inmate since December at Grimes. The Fort Smith resident said she and other relatives of inmates had eagerly awaited the February date and were disappointed to hear that Grimes wouldn't be charging lower rates before her husband returns home in May.

But Smith said she was happy that other families will save some money.

"As long as someone else benefits, that'll be OK," Smith said.

This article was published 03/18/2007



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January 31, 2007 Wednesday FINAL Edition

SECTION: LOCAL & STATE; Pg. B1

HEADLINE: Prisons' fees take toll on poor families

BYLINE: Bill Nemitz staff columnist

BODY:

Marie Libby knew when her son moved into the Maine State Prison for a 40-year murder sentence that keeping in touch would not be easy.

But the \$15 to \$20 she spends to talk with him by phone each Sunday is more than just a financial hardship. As far as Libby is concerned, it's state-sponsored larceny.

"I don't understand why (the Maine Department of Corrections) gets away with it," said Libby, who lives in Portland on not much money. "Let's face it, the majority of prisoners up there don't have rich relatives. So the state is making money off poor people."

She's right. And the Department of Corrections admits it.

Here's how it works.

Say an inmate makes a collect call (the only kind allowed from Maine's eight correctional facilities) to his family for 30 minutes. The charge, at \$1.80 for the first minute and 25 cents for each minute thereafter, will be a whopping \$9.05. (The same call out of state costs \$23.60.)

Some of that money goes to Public Communication Services, which provides telephone service for the 2,080 adults and 185 juveniles in state custody.

But 41 cents out of every dollar - \$3.71 from that \$9.05 call - goes straight to the DOC.

"They call it a 'commission," said Bill Flynn, president of the state prison's Long Timers Group. "But it's a kickback."

Labels aside, it's hardly small change. The corrections department tele-pockets \$1 million a year from inmates' families and friends - many of whom already have trouble making ends meet.

People like Marie Libby, who often gets "the horrors" when she tries to shoehorn her \$50-to-\$75 prison phone bill into her monthly budget.

"It's totally unfair," said Libby. But because we're talking about prisoners here, she added, "no-body feels sorry for you."

So why does the state do it?

"I'm not saying I can justify or rationalize it - other than it's been the practice for decades," said department spokeswoman Denise Lord.

Lord said the state's telephone take goes to the Inmate Benefit Fund to pay for things that might otherwise go unfunded. Flynn and other prisoners counter that the fund often gets raided for bare essentials like "paint and flooring supplies."

Lord also noted that a new telephone system, scheduled for rollout this summer, will reduce the cost of shorter calls (but not longer ones). At the same time, she said, the department's annual "commission" will drop to 33 percent, \$600,000.

Here's a better idea. This morning, the Legislature's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee will hear a bill to take the entire prison telephone system and place it in the not-so-greedy hands of the Public Utilities Commission.

Freda Plumley, a member of the Augusta Church of Christ, would welcome that. For the past 15 years, she's reached out and touched a state prison inmate who joined her church and often needs someone to talk to.

"One month was \$140," she said Tuesday, looking over her recent bills. "Another was \$110, and here's one for \$95 ..."

Plumley's faith tells her to pay, month after expensive month, because prisoners need all the "connections" they can get with the outside world.

But the church lady's common sense tells her this is nothing more than a shakedown.

"It's an unfair tax on a group of people who are quite vulnerable," Plumley said. "And that's just wrong."

Columnist Bill Nemitz can be contacted at 791-6323 or at:

bnemitz@pressherald.com



Copyright 2007 Little Rock Newspapers, Inc. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock)

January 20, 2007 Saturday

SECTION: ARKANSAS

HEADLINE: Jail calls to net Pulaski County additional cash Contract increases take to 58%

BYLINE: BY JIM BROOKS ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BODY:

Pulaski County Sheriff Charles "Doc" Holladay says a new contract with the company that provides telephone service to inmates at the county jail will net the county an estimated \$250,000 more in annual revenue.

Under the current contract with Dallas-based Securus Inc., the county receives 35 percent of the cost of each phone call made by inmates. The collect calls from inmates cost \$3.65 for 15 minutes of phone time under the current plan.

Holladay said the sheriff's office has negotiated a higher percentage - 58 percent - that the county will receive under the new contract with Securus. That deal is expected to be signed as soon as next week.

Figures for 2005 reveal that the county received \$289,760 from Securus as its percentage of inmate calls.

"If we don't change the \$3.65 at all, we'll almost double what we are currently receiving," Holladay said. He said the cost to inmates may rise at some point.

Any new money collected will add to what the jail contributes to the county's general fund. In 2005, that total was almost \$3 million.

On Thursday, the state Board of Corrections voted to lower the cost of phone calls placed by state inmates from \$6.80 to \$4.80 for 15 minutes. The \$2 reduction was to "give some relief to the inmates' families" who pays for the calls, DOC director Larry Norris said.

That deal also reduces the state's share of revenue generated by calls from 55 percent to 45 percent.

At the county level, a larger share of telephone revenue is not the only source of money that Holladay is seeking.

The sheriff expects that a legislative effort will be made this session to increase the amount that the state Department of Correction reimburses county jails for housing of state prisoners.

"It costs us \$47 to \$48 a day to house a prisoner and the state pays us \$28 a day for their prisoners," Holladay said. "It costs them [the Corrections Department] \$52 a day." "I don't see any reason why the counties ought to lose money for providing a service to the state," he said. "How is that fair?" Other legislative efforts include a proposal for a \$5-per-ticket fee solely dedicated to county

jails, and an effort to obtain state "capital projects" money for the repair of a part of the Pulaski County jail's roof.

The heavy rains of last week caused several ceiling tiles in the old jail structure to fall in, and administrators had to come up with a contingency plan to move 160 prisoners from the building.

After a survey of the situation, it was determined that the prisoners wouldn't have to be moved, Holladay said.

But the situation at the jail was so serious that last week a Pulaski County Justice of the Peace wrote a letter to state Rep. Sandra Prater asking for help in obtaining state money to fix the roof.

"I have been told the cost of the necessary repair is estimated to be \$1,200,000," Steve Goss wrote to Prater. "I do not think I need to tell you how important this is." "This part of the jail houses 160 inmates, and if we were to have to close it, it would be devastating to our county," the letter concluded.

This article was published 01/20/2007